

MS. COLLINSON: Hello. Thanks, you guys, so much for taking the time to hear us all. My name's Angel Collinson and I'm a professional skier here in Salt Lake City. I grew up here, my whole family works in the ski industry, but I wanted to start by saying that I don't think that my job or my family's job is anymore important than anyone else's in the room. And this is a really complex issue and I'm sharing my concerns as you all have as well. I've lived in Utah my whole life and I've seen the progression of winters for the past 25 years. And for us, the changes are really scary. Winter is shorter, warmer, we're receiving less snowfall. And it's having a real impact on skiers like me and our communities here depend on our winter sports economy. The outdoor recreation industry in Utah alone generates 12 billion annually and supports 122,000 jobs, which is one in every ten jobs. So our public lands are really important to us. And I'm speaking at this hearing to ask that the coal industry pays the fair market rate for these lands and not at a discounted rate as it currently can. Our climate is changing, I see it every day in the mountains, whether I'm traveling globally or coming back here to home. Last year was the hottest on record. 2016 is on track to be even hotter still. We know that climate change is contributing to decreased snowpack, but I wanted to also speak to the fact that it's not just our winter tourism and local economies at risk, it's also our identity. Utah is known for having the greatest snow on earth. For unparalleled landscapes down in Southern Utah, these things on our license plates, our state welcome signs, it's what we all enjoy so much. Utah represents amazing, beautiful, pristine environments, most of which is on protected, public lands. Our State's economy and local communities rely on the pristine environment and continued snowfall for our health and economic well-being. I'm also speaking to represent the way of life that so many Americans hold dear, you know, family ski vacations, white Christmases, the role that winter skiing and winter sports play. The majority of Americans have gone skiing and most of them have been on family trips where we're all together for a weekend that's precious. While me and my family and coworkers' economic well-being is threatened, nationwide we're losing a way of life that a lot of us treasure so much. I travel the world and I choose to live in the US, in Utah in particular, because of the environment and the snow. I'm here today because we have a real opportunity to address a critical threat to our climate, our lands, our economy, and our identities. I speak for the families and communities who are feeling the hits of coal's

adverse effects, but I'm not asking to get rid of coal. Coal's played a large part in supporting Utahns, the working family, and America to where it is now. So we're all in this together and we all need to work together to find the best way forward. So my ask is simple. I ask that we start by having the coal industry pay the fair market cost to the public lands in question and not be allowed to purchase this land that is so dear to us all at a discounted rate.